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Sept. 22, 2003
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NEWS RELEASE

LECTURES CELEBRATE MARY: UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON OFFERS SEMINARS AS PART OF VATICAN ART EXHIBIT

DAYTON, Ohio — The University of Dayton is offering a series of weekly free seminars about religious art as part of its two-month exhibit of rarely seen art of the Virgin Mary from the Vatican Museums.

Topics range from Italian art representations of Mary to the popularity of black Madonnas. The seminars are designed to help visitors explore the many themes of the exhibit, "The Mother of God: Art Celebrates Mary," a collection of 38 pieces spanning the early fourth century through the late 20th century.

The Thursday lectures run from 7 to 9 p.m. in the LTC Studio on the ground floor of the Roesch Library. The line-up includes:

- Sept. 25, "Portraits of Mary in the Bible," by the Rev. Bertrand Buby, S.M., assistant professor of religious studies.
- Oct. 2, "The Madonna in Italian Art," by Roger Crum, Graul chair in arts and languages.
- Oct. 9, "Marian Devotion: Meaning and Milestones," by the Rev. Thomas A. Thompson, S.M., director of the Marian Library.
- Oct. 16, "The Thousand Faces of Mary," by Judith Huacuja, assistant professor of visual arts.
- Oct. 23, "Windows Unto Eternity: The Art of Icons," by the Rev. Johann Roten, S.M., director of the Marian Library-International Marian Research Institute.
- Oct. 30, "Art and Prayer: The Book of Hours," by Brother William Fackovec, S.M., associate professor in the Marian Library-International Marian Research Institute.

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- Nov. 6, "I am Black but Beautiful," by Vincenzina Krymow, local author.
- Nov. 13, "The Seventh Art: The Life of Mary," by Michael Duricy, information technology specialist in the Marian Library-International Marian Research Institute and a film expert.
- Nov. 20, "The Nativity in Art," by the Rev. Johann Roten, S.M., director of the Marian Library-International Marian Research Institute.

The exhibit of multicultural, multi-century of art of Mary has been enjoyed by a steady stream of "enthusiastic and appreciative" visitors since it opened Sept. 5, according to Michael Duricy, who will present a talk about recent films on Mary's life.

Although the collection is housed in the Vatican Museums, many of the pieces are in areas accessible only to scholars for study. Those pieces have rarely been seen by the public aside from the exhibit's rare tours outside of Rome, which include a recent extended stay at the John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington, D.C.

The exhibit, free and open to the public, will be on display in the Roesch Library first-floor gallery and the seventh-floor Marian Library gallery through Nov. 10. The galleries are open from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends. For questions or to arrange a group tour, contact Carol Charbel at 229-4254.

Visitors can also view the exhibit on the Internet. See <http://www.udayton.edu/mary/current-exhibit.html>.

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For media interviews, call **Father Johann Roten** at (937) 229-4214 or **Violette-Anne Onfroy-Curley** at (937) 229-1431.